Primary National Telecom Policy

1699. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Primary National Telecom Policy, 2005 envisages for sweeping changes in the inter-connected norms to set up competition in the national long-distance space and define a roadmap for increased availability, management and vacation of radio spectrum;

(b) the problem Government are facing in merging ADC and USO since both are meant for beefing up of rural telecom penetration;

(c) whether any committee with the experts of DoT has been set up to review the matter and thrash out some of the issues to make up National Telecom Policy, 2005; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Process has been initiated for formulation of National Telecom Policy, 2005 (NTP 05). Comments have been received from various stakeholders and the policy is likely to address issues relating to Access, Spectrum Allocation, Technology, Telecom Equipment Manufacturing, R&D Deregulation/further simplification, Value Added Services and Quality of Service etc. Consultation process is in progress.

(b) At present Access Deficit Charge (ADC) is applicable for urban and rural areas and Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund is for rural and remote areas only.

(c) and (d) An internal committee of officers in the Department is examining various issues mentioned at (a) above.